

ENERGY TIDBITS

October 2004

Give a Gift of Wind is a partnership between Michigan Interfaith Power and Light and Native Energy. A WindBuilders gift card helps build the first Native American large-scale wind farm and keeps a ton of carbon dioxide out of the air. Each card is \$12 and helps support MilPL. Just in time for Christmas. www.nativeenergy.com.miipl

12th Annual Waste Reduction & Energy Efficiency Conference & Expo is coming to the Burton Manor in Livonia on October 26. This year's conference offers tracks on Energy Efficiency, Recycling, Greening the Supply Chain, Elevating Awareness, Green Manufacturing, Metrics, and Green Building. The registration fee is \$75. Register online at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops. Click on "Upcoming Workshops."

City of Ann Arbor will receive a \$24,500 from the Energy Office for a biodiesel infrastructure project. The project will install B-20 fuel pumps at two Meijer fueling stations in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti by Spring, 2005. The pumps will be available to the public for refueling for at least three years. The "20" in B-20 means that 20 percent of the fuel blend is derived from domestic, renewable, soybean or other oilseed crops.

Alternative Energy Technology Conference: Gearing up for a New Energy Era will be held on October 14, 9:00 am - 7:30 pm at the Grand Traverse Bay Campus of Northwestern Michigan College. www.glrea.org.

ASHRAE 2004 Student Design Competition challenged students to design a dramatic arts studio. Winners were announced in three categories – HVAC system design, HVAC system selection and architectural design. First place in the architectural design category was awarded to Michael Oranchak & Keith Bryan of Lawrence Tech. Their advisor is Janice Means, P.E. The main floor of their design is a two-story structure of massive angled ribs and frameless glazing supported with Pilkington spider clips attached to a taut vertical cable on the curving west wall and ceiling. The system uses double pane insulated glazing and will use argon gas to enhance the insulative quality and help filter UV rays from the sun. First place in the HVAC system design category was awarded to Brad Green, Bhushan Joshi, John Lindman, Trevor Fink, Ray Wrobel & Joseph Borders of Ferris State. Their advisor is Doug Zentz. The team chose a geothermal water source heat pump (WSHP) system with a dedicated outdoor air system.

Solar Mining, a Wisconsin company, has a unique utility option. All construction, installation, and maintenance of the solar system are free. Solar Mining Company retains ownership and sells you the energy at a discounted rate to fossil fuel costs. <http://www.solarminingco.com/program.htm>

\$8 Million will be available for the upcoming heating season for low-income energy efficiency grants from the MPSC. The deadline is October 8. www.michigan.gov/mpsc

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Advanced Energy & Fuel Cell Technologies: Manufacturing Opportunities & Challenges will be held on October 11-13 at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) is bringing manufacturers together with scientists to help make these advanced technologies more mainstream. www.sme.org/aet

Making Your Home More Energy Efficient seminar will be held on **Saturday, October 9, 10 -11:30 am** at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

Nova Scotia Power says it shut down its 20 MW tidal generating station after a whale entered through the gates adjacent to the tidal plant. The mammal was not in danger but boaters were asked to stay away while the whale tries to return to its natural habitat in the Bay of Fundy. The Annapolis Tidal Generating Station was completed in 1984 as a pilot project to generate electricity from the 7 m tidal flow in the bay. It is the only tidal plant in North America and uses the largest straflo turbine in the world to generate 30 million kWh/year, enough power for 4,000 homes.

2004 Michigan Solar Tour will be held on Saturday, October 2. Go to www.glrea.org or www.urbanoptions.org for additional information.

GE Global Research will collaborate on a 3 year, \$6 million project for the U.S. Department of Energy to develop novel, low-cost wireless sensor networks for industrial equipment monitoring. Wireless sensors will be installed on selected motors and monitor parameters critical to each motor's condition and efficiency based on a combination of measurements such as vibration, temperature and power quality. These data are then transmitted wirelessly to a computer that analyzes the data from each sensor. Any potential problems are transmitted to plant personnel via phone, pager or e-mail as an advanced warning system. This will allow plant personnel to repair or replace motors before their efficiency drops or they fail entirely.

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light Annual "Faith in Action" Conference will be held on October 28 at the Hannah Community Center, East Lansing. <http://www.sbam.org/resource/energystar/Mipl/Confreg.htm>



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